



View from the Blackdown Hills

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Issue 88 April 2012

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Solar field plan

A DISUSED airfield in Culmhead, formerly RAF Culmhead, could be the location of a new solar field that has been proposed by Wellington-based energy firm Renewable Power, working in conjunction with German firm Notus Energy.

The site is approximately 1.5km northeast of Churchstanton and 8km southeast of Wellington and, according to Renewable Power, will generate "clean,

By **CHARLIE TRAYNOR**

blackdown@findlenews.co.uk

economic electricity with minimal impact on the countryside".

To generate this power the field will use solar photovoltaic (PV) technology that will silently convert sunlight into electricity on the 18-hectare site, which is approximately one-tenth of the aerodrome's land area.

The field hopes to generate up to five megawatts of power, enough to power 1,000 homes.

The south west is seen as an ideal place to develop solar energy as it has the greatest concentration of sunshine in the UK.

A public consultation meeting took place at Churchinford Village Hall on Friday, February 17th where designs for the site, along with archaeological and environmental survey results, were presented to those in attendance.

A concerned Blackdown Hills resident contacted *View from the Blackdown Hills* to raise the issue and said: "There are a number of serious implications such as the expense that needs to be offset by taxpayer subsidies, panel lifespan and the toxic nature of the gases used in them. These are some of the long term effects that need to be balanced against the need to consider sustainable energy.

"Whilst we do need to work towards a viable solution to our energy crisis, I and other residents do not believe that

an AONB is an appropriate site for such an industrial plant and all the security fencing and cameras that are required."

Iain Beath, director of Renewable Power, when commenting on the public meeting, said: "The public engagement was to understand the reaction to the project, gauge the level of support, and see whether we need to make changes to the plans.

"Some people living nearby were against the plans but overall I think there was support."

Mr Beath continued that he hoped there would be benefits for the local community from the development and that it was up to local community groups and leaders to work with them to decide what form these benefits would take.

When asked how he thought the solar field would fit into an area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB), Mr Beath said: "The site is enclosed by vegetation and there are already a number of man-made buildings, including a wind turbine. I think that a greater number of smaller sites scattered around would be more damaging."

According to Mr Beath, solar power is becoming more affordable with the government subsidies, once 29.9p per unit of electricity, falling to between 4.7p and 8p per unit as of this coming July. He added: "All renewables are subsidised."

As of yet a planning application for the site has not been submitted.

HOMES & GARDENS

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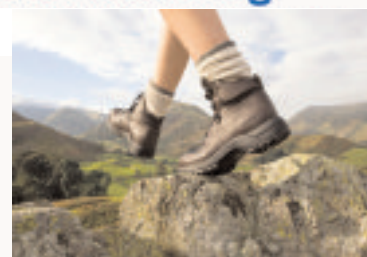
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Pulman's View from Colyton
Pulman's View from Honiton
Pulman's View from Ottery St Mary
Pulman's View from Crewkerne
View from the Blackdown Hills*

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View from the

Blackdown Hills

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Cat-lover Judy to present new van to charity

GOOD news for cats in and around the Honiton area with Honiton Cats Protection purchasing a new van to collect cats in need.

BBC Radio Devon's Judy Spiers, a known cat-lover, will be supporting Honiton Cats Protection by officially presenting the volunteers with their brand new peugeot van at Truscott's Garage on Saturday, March 31st at 1pm.

Co-ordinator Elizabeth Manley said: "The purchase was made possible due to a generous legacy.

We are very grateful that someone appreciated what we do for local cats to the extent that they remembered us in their will."

Moving into Honiton Cats Protection's current premises on 137 High Street was itself made possible due to an earlier legacy and Judy Spiers was there to open the doors on the first day as well.

Ms Manley added: "Honiton Cats Protection is run solely by volunteers and we discussed how to spend the money and decided that a van would be a great help as we can use it to

collect cats as well as donations for our shop.

"The van has been customised with our logo and contact details, so not only will it help us with our work throughout the EX14 postcode area, it will also act as a reminder to people that we are here if they want to adopt a cat or kitten."

At the moment the branch is caring for 10 cats who are all looking for loving homes.

To offer a cat a home contact the branch on 01404 45241 or visit www.honiton.cats.org.uk.

Volunteer drivers sought for 'discovery'

NEROCHE supporters are being called upon to become volunteer drivers in order to support the forest's programme of Discovery Days over the next two years.

over the course of the next couple of years a series of walks and group events will be taking place in the Neroche forest and Neroche are planning to use the CBO

Community minibus to help transport those who would not otherwise be able to attend.

However, to keep the CBO minibus running requires drivers. Therefore, Neroche are calling on anyone with a D1 category driving licence to contact them.

The D1 category as automatically added to a licence if the driving test was passed before January 1st, 1997. Volunteers will be given a free

short training course and should be available for one or two bookings a month.

Jilly Ould, Force for Nature Volunteer Co-ordinator, said: "This is a great opportunity to support the work of a useful community resource."

Those interested should contact Ms Ould on 01823 680846 or via email at jilly.ould@forestry.gsi.gov.uk.

Useful contacts

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WORKING OUR WOODLANDS

**Blackdown and East Devon
Woodland Association with
John Greenshields**

THE Blackdown Hills Woodland Association had its annual meeting on March 22nd and Kate Mobbs-Morgan gave a cracking presentation on Horse Logging.

She will be bringing her Horses to Park Farm for a Horse Logging course on April 26th.

The tree planting season is over now and I have had to start watering already. We, on this side of the country, are relatively well off for water, but in the east it is bad. I have a friend who farms in the east and has had to cancel the planting of 100 hectare of vegetables, he also planted seven hectare of new woodland this winter and reckons most of the trees will die, as he has no water.

Preparations for the woodland fair are well under way and the publicity material will be out this month. So if you have a place to put up a poster or distribute some leaflets then let me know and I will get some to you.

The Forestry Commission is one of the main sponsors again this year, and I think its great that a large government body like that supports small local events.

Two other sponsors are Taunton Dean Borough Council and The Blackdown Hills AONB, a small event like this needs sponsors and would find it difficult to survive without them.

I was part of a delegation to Normandy to assess the way the French coppice their hedges for wood fuel and, apart from being well looked after, I found out something quite extraordinary. While visiting a farm near the coast, I asked the farmer why there were so many old trees in the hedges and were they any good for timber. He replied that all trees over 60 years old cannot be used for wood fuel or timber. This is because they were full of shrapnel, and no mill of chipper would touch them. I found that quite moving, especially as two of my uncles were part of the landings and landed a few miles away.

Over the past 10 years I have been taking yearly measurements of the major trees in my wood and others. These yearly measurements (increments) can then be put on a graph (I can hear some of you say I should get out more). Once on the graph you can trace growth trends.

From those trends you can also trace weather patterns, rain fall, sunlight, and sometimes disease.

I hear you ask why. Well it helps to assess whether the correct tree is in the correct place for optimal growth.

When doing any work on trees or hedges please look out for nesting birds and, unless absolutely necessary, leave until September.

To contact John call
01823 660764 or email
parkfarm@tinyonline.co.uk

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Green policy celebrations

DEVON farmer Henry Gent has recently celebrated his Food and Agriculture paper becoming official Green Party Policy following the Green Party's spring conference, which closed on Monday, February 27th.

Mr Gent, who farms cattle at Mosshayne Farm, Broadclyst, has been a member of the Green party for the past two years.

He said: "Green party policy will support small and local farms in our region. Our policies would put more local food into schools, hospitals, restaurants and local shops.

"We would also require more accurate labelling of food so you'd know where your food comes from and how it was produced."

Ex-chef and Bristol Green Party councillor Gus Hoyt, a member of the

team that developed the policy, said: "The answer is staring up at us from the plate. Better use of the resources of our own countryside will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other pollution. Better use of our own food supply will benefit countryside and wildlife."

The policy states that changes in food markets and patterns of production and consumption can secure food security on a local as well as global level and that agriculture can form part of the solution the challenges our environment faces.

Covered in the paper adopted at the spring conference are topics such as biodiversity, genetic modification, biofuels and non-food crops as well as sustainable and animal farming.

The Green Party's policy can be found on their website <http://policy.greenparty.org.uk>.



◆ HENRY Gent whose Food and Agriculture paper has been made official Green Party policy

Move consultant chosen

A CONSULTANT has been selected by East Devon District Council (EDDC) to oversee the proposed relocation of council headquarters from Sidmouth to Honiton.

EDDC has chosen Davis Langdon construction consultants to do a feasibility study and to deliver if deemed viable.

EDDC deputy chief executive Richard Cohen said: "We believe it is people with the right talents who deliver a great project.

"We have chosen Davis Langdon as the best fit to take this big move forward.

"Steve Pratten is a mature, knowledgeable and highly experienced project manager.

The new headquarters would be built on land the council already owns at Heathpark.

The land used to house a waste disposal depot and council leader Paul Diviani added: "I am really excited we will have the extensive resources of Davis Langdon behind us as we approach this vital stage in the council's future development.

"This move is about a lot more than a new building. Every aspect of this project has to be spot on.

"Through our choice of a mature contractor with an impressive track record, we have set down a marker that we are determined to follow through with our promise that this relocation will not only

be cost neutral but will be a massive improvement for our staff and customers and also minimise our carbon footprint".

Davis Langdon take up the appointment in April and it is hoped that the move can be completed within two years.

Davis Langdon have been involved in projects like the relocation of Michelmores Solicitors and the Exeter Chiefs.

A final decision on any move will depend on the right price being offered for the Knowle site and the new building at Honiton being cost-effective to build and maintain.

In July last year, EDDC leader Paul

Diviani explained the need for new headquarters by saying: "EDDC is committed to modern working practices fit for the 21st Century.

"We need to find alternatives for our current premises, which are not suitable for the efficient delivery of the high quality services we and our residents expect to see.

"Whilst the main thrust of our administration needs to be more centrally located, we will be looking to deliver many of our services more locally."

He also said that Honiton has a central location and excellent transport infrastructure.



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◆ CHILDREN, teachers and parents with some of the obstacle equipment

Obstacle event for 'garden'

CULMSTOCK Pre-school Playgroup held a sponsored obstacle course event to raise funds for a new garden and outside play area for the children on Wednesday, March 7th.

In the past the pre-school did not have an outdoor space but has recently been

offered the opportunity to rent a piece of land at the rear of the school.

The sponsored obstacle course was just one in a series of planned events hoping to raise the £1,000 needed to open an educational garden in time for the summer term.

People talking will benefit high streets

DESPITE throwing its support behind the scheme being dubbed the 'Portas Pilot', the Blackdown Hills Business Association believes the real benefits for the region's high streets lie with people getting together and discussing issues regarding their town centres.

Manager Val Baker said: "When I heard about the opportunity we forwarded it to all Blackdown Towns."

Set up by the Department for Communities and Local Government, the scheme proposes to share £1 million between twelve different pilot towns. Ms Baker had this to say about the initiative: "It's not a lot of money, there'll be a lot of town's applying so there's a small chance of success."

However, Ms Baker still believes the scheme could be beneficial.

"The process is very positive, getting town teams together, addressing the situation and talking about positive ways of tackling problems," Ms Baker said.

Rather than the one time influx of money, Ms Baker felt that the lasting legacy of the scheme is instead that the process focuses the mind and invigorates people to address the problems their town may be facing.

Footpath users call by parish council

HEMYOCK Parish Council is calling for anyone who can give evidence of using a footpath from Burleyhayes to the Blackdown Common over the past 20 years to come forward.

Devon County Council is currently reviewing footpaths in the area and seeks relevant evidence to support the proposal to make the path, from near Burleyhayes Cottage, Culm Davy, going north-westerly to Blackdown Common, a public right of way.

The review of public rights of way is a continuous and compulsory process under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which obliges county council's to keep definitive maps of public rights of way and amend routes where necessary.

If you can provide evidence to show you have been using this footpath over the past 20 years then contact Hemyock's parish clerk or Lance Povah on 01823 680080 or via email at l.povah@02.co.uk to obtain user evidence forms.

Model rail display

MEMBERS of the Culm Valley Model Railway Club will be putting on a display at the Coldharbour Mill on Sunday, April 8th and Monday, April 9th.

Between 10.30am and 4pm the club will be operating the mill's 50ft gauge Culm Valley model railway layout and the 30ft North Park and Chinehurst layout.

The exhibition will take place in the mill's Fox Gallery. The club will demonstrate a variety of models and will answer any model railway queries.



◆ FROM left, Reverend Alastair McCollum, Bishop Bob Evens and Nigel Speller

REVEREND Alastair McCollum, vicar of the Five Alive Mission Community, was appointed Rural Dean of the Honiton Deanery on Sunday, March 11th.

Bishop Bob Evens, of Crediton, read the formal certification from the Bishop of Exeter, Michael Langrish, at a service in Yarcombe in front of a congregation of parishioners from Dalwood, Kilmington and Shute that included Deanery Lay Chairman Nigel Speller.

Before the ceremony Reverend Kate Woolven led an evening Taize service with music by Kathy Laing.

Reverend McCollum was applauded by the bishop and the congregation who then prayed for his work at the Deanery.

Bishop Bob applauds rural dean Alastair as he starts new role

Hills' eggs survey attracts Countryfile

BLACKDOWN Hills Brown Hairstreak egg survey has garnered attention from BBC's Countryfile, being featured on the programme with volunteer co-ordinator Jilly Ould helping presenter Matt Baker to find the tiny white eggs on blackthorn scrub.

According to Neroche, the Brown Hairstreak butterfly is an uncommon and elusive creature that lays eggs on the young blackthorn growth found in hedgerows.

Unfortunately modern flailing methods used to cultivate these hedgerows can be devastating for Brown Hairstreak population with entire colonies destroyed. Instead, selective flailing over a three-year rotation is encouraged to help protect the butterflies and allow them to thrive.

Neroche added that the traditional methods of hedgelaying are more likely to ensure the survival of the eggs with the Blackdown Hills possessing many miles of hedgerows for the Brown Hairstreaks.

The hedgerows at Mount Fancy farm reserve featured on Countryfile were completed by the Neroche Conservation Volunteers.

If anyone wants to take part in this years Brown Hairstreak survey go to www.nerochescheme.org/volunteering.php or email jilly.ould@forestry.gov.uk.

Plant support day

A CRAFT course on how to make plant supports and willow hurdles will be taking place at Young Wood, Staple Fitzpaine, on Saturday, April 28th as part of National Beanpole Week.

The one day course will be led by local green woodworker Tim Beazley and offers attendees the opportunity to make attractive garden structures using sustainable, local materials.

Over the course of the day, using hazel from the surrounding wood and willow from the Somerset levels, you can make conical plant supports and border hurdles in time for the growing season.

The day costs £65 including materials and will take place between 10am and 4.30pm. Places can be booked by calling 01823 680846 or emailing info@nerochescheme.org.



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A View from the Blackdowns



◆ A BEAUTIFUL spring day in Dalwood, by Rose Siwek

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Full steam ahead for mill visitors over Easter break

THE Coldharbour Mill will be holding an Easter Steam Up! event on Monday, April 9th from 10.30am to 4pm.

Over the course of the day, visitors can take a tour of the mill and see the the process of turning combed worsted tops into knitting yarn on the

Victorian textile machinery as well as the mills steam engines in motion from 11am.

Visitors can also experience the mill's exhibitions, including model railways and a tapestry of the Culm valley made especially for the millennium.

There will also be the chance to relax and have a snack in the restaurant or have a picnic by the mill stream where there is the fully restored water wheel first built in 1821. More information about the day can be found at www.coldharbourmill.org.uk.

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◆ PICTURED are Carymoor Environmental Trust staff demonstrating how to make the daub (minus the cow dung) with children from Buckland St Mary eager to jump in and help

Kids learn to get dirty

CHILDREN from Buckland St Mary Primary School were treated to a free visit to the Carymoor Environmental Trust at Castle Cary.

The trust offered places to the schools who replied quickly and Buckland St Mary was one of them.

Throughout the day the children saw what it was like to live in a

shanty town, learned about the most important elements of plant growth and embarked on an orienteering activity. But by far the most popular activity was daubing the walls of the

newly built roundhouse.

Teacher Rachel Auton said: "The children absolutely loved the day, especially getting dirty, and I mean dirty!"

Green tree awards



◆ WHITCOMBE Cottage, Honiton

GOOD news for the environmentally-minded tourist coming to the Westcountry with two cottages near Honiton and one in Kentisbeare have been awarded green tree symbols by Westcountry self-catering specialists, Helpful Holidays.

Converted from barns, Whitcombe Cottage an Swallows Cottage, Honiton, obtained the green tree symbol thanks to its situation on a working farm. Surrounded by 135 acres containing horses, chickens, cattle and sheep, the cottages are heated using solar panels and a log boiler with hot water piped from the farmhouse. The fuel used by the boiler is coppiced wood from the sustainably managed woodland around the farm.

Both cottages sleep four.

Also awarded with the green tree symbol was The Hay Loft, near Kentisbeare. The Hay Loft sleeps twelve and can be found on a five acre organic small holding in east Devon. There are lots of fresh vegetables for guests to enjoy and energy is provided by local spring water and solar panels.

To qualify for the green tree symbol the cottages were assessed by Helpful Holidays against 69 aspects that help to reduce the impact they make on the environment.

This includes energy consumption, pollution and their water as well as the effect the cottages have on the local wildlife and landscape.

Measures such as solar, wind and water energy as well as electrical vehicle charging points are particularly favoured.

Moray Bowater, general manager of Helpful Holidays, said: "Our offices are in the heart of the Westcountry in the beautiful Dartmoor National Park; we love our region and being environmentally aware is second nature to us.

"We recognise the unpredictable consequences of climate change and want to reduce the contribution running our business may make, as well as encourage our home owners and holiday makers to think more sustainably."

A copy of Helpful Holidays Green Cottages guide can be obtained by calling 01647 434063 or by visiting www.helpfulholidays.com.

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with full wet room.

Day Care & Respite Care available

NVQ Level 2 & 3 trained staff
providing 24 hour care.
Family & Friends involvement is supported
and encouraged.
Active Residents' Committee.

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please contact
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discussion.

Telephone 01884 840144
E-mail kentfarm@dsl.pipex.com

Local Farmers Markets

*in the Blackdown Hills and East Devon Areas
of Outstanding Natural Beauty*

Blackdown Hills

Taunton Town Centre 4th Saturday of Month
Val Baker Tel: 01823 681484 Mobile: 07711366885

Taunton Farmers Market

Every Thursday 9am to 3pm in the High Street

Dunkeswell Farmers Market

2nd Saturday of each month at Throgmorton Hall 10 am-midday

Wellington Farmers Market

1st & 3rd Saturday in Castle Hall 9am-1pm

Yarcombe Village Market

2nd Saturday 10am to 12 noon in Village Hall

Hemyock

Heather Stallard 3rd Sat of Month Tel: 01823 680237

Stockland

Last or 5th Sat of month Monica Paris Tel: 01404 881 535

Churchinford

1st Sat of Month Nick Strange Tel: 01823 601565

Add your local market to our list!
email: rose.siwek@tindlenews.co.uk



Pulman's *view from the* **Blackdown Hills**

Visitors' Guide 2012

Life in the Hills...



A special supplement, brought to you by Pulman's Weekly News and in association with



**Blackdown
Hills AONB**



Neroche

The Neroche Scheme
www.nerochescheme.org



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Welcome to our 2012 Visitor's Guide to the Blackdown Hills.

The guide is put together with support from the Blackdown Hills Business Association and the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and published by Pulman's View from the Blackdown Hills, part of Tindle Newspapers.

www.axminster-today.co.uk

Look out for the QR codes

Use your smart phone and appropriate app to scan the QR codes for links to websites



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Almost 400 businesses now benefit from BHBA membership



The Blackdown Hills Business Association is a not-for-profit membership based organisation which was set up in the early 1980s in order to bring together small businesses which were finding it difficult to promote their businesses individually. These businesses saw the value of promoting themselves collectively. This need remains at the core of the BHBA activities today.

As at March 2011 our membership stood at over 300 business members and supporters.

The BHBA has an executive Board of Directors. The day to day organisation and activities of the BHBA are delivered by Val Baker of Absolutes.

Our aims

The Blackdown Hills Business Association aims to promote the interests of all businesses in the Blackdown Hills area.

We seek to respond to the needs of businesses that contribute so much to the prosper-

ity of this area.

We are keen to build links with organisations and businesses outside the Blackdown Hills area. There are no barriers to membership. We strongly believe that forging links with new areas in the region is crucial in helping to safeguard the future prosperity of our business members.

The Blackdown Hills Business Association's postal address is St Ivel House, Station Road, Hemyock, Devon EX15 3RX.

www.bhba.org.uk

Manager
Val Baker

Tel: 01823 681484

Email: info@bhba.org.uk

Chairman
Heather Stallard MBE

01823 680237

Email: heatherstallard@tiscali.co.uk



Blackdown Hills Business Association



The road to success...

The Blackdown Hills Business Association aims to promote the interests of all businesses in the Blackdown Hills area.

To find out more contact Val Baker on:

Tel: 01823 681484

Email: info@bhba.org.uk

St Ivel House, Station Road,
Hemyock, Devon EX15 3RX

The beautiful Blackdown Hills

3



4

Places to visit

Experience what life was like during the Industrial Revolution

COLDHARBOUR MILL



Open from 10am - 4pm every weekday and at weekends from June to August. A charge is made for admission.

For more details please ring 01884 840960 between 10am and 1pm or look at our www.coldharbourmill.org.uk

Located in the village of Uffculme, in the peaceful Culm Valley, Coldharbour Mill is a rare survivor of the Industrial Revolution. Built in 1799, it enabled a local Wool Merchant, Thomas Fox, to introduce machines for wool processing into a community very experienced in the domestic process.

Visitors can see examples of early 19th century machines and watch later examples which are still being used to produce knitting wools.

Weaving is also demonstrated on traditional shuttle looms. There are a Restaurant & Shop on site and pleasant walks along the nearby ex-railway line and river.

The Mill is open from 10am - 4pm every weekday and at weekends from June to August. A charge is made for admission.

The Gill Box Restaurant

Open daily from 10am until 5:30pm (March – October) Reduced hours between November & February telephone 0800 389 3859.

Situated beside the Mill Stream, the Gill Box Restaurant serves hot food, snacks, drinks and cream teas. Group bookings & evening functions welcome by arrangement.

For more details please ring 01884 840960 between 10am and 1pm or look at our website <http://www.coldharbourmill.org.uk>

Ten things you can do to help nature's top pollinators!

There are about two hundred and fifty species of bee in the UK, only 25 of these are native British. Of half of what existed in the 1950's, three have already become extinct, five are currently under threat and two more are seriously close.

Below are ten, tips you can do to help save Britain's top pollinators.

- 1 Stop using insecticides
- 2 Plant Bee-friendly plants
- 3 Create natural habitat gardens
- 4 Find out more about bees
- 5 Support your local beekeepers
- 6 Make you own 'Wild bee' house
- 7 Become a beekeeper
- 8 Lobby your local MP or MEP
- 9 Sign petitions banning pesticides
- 10 Encourage your local authority to do more to help bees

Pollination by bees is crucial to our continued food supplies, so the right types of trees, shrubs and plants makes all the difference.

One of the easiest ways to help the various types of bees is to choose to grow flowers & plants in your garden that bees love - and there is a huge variety to choose from.

Providing even just one bee house or nesting box is fun and easy to do and will provide invaluable winter shelter for hibernating Queen bees, plus a home during the busy spring and summer months.

Lastly, taking a share in one of our 'sponsored meadows' or by donating directly to the invaluable research and conservation work being carried out by 'The Bumblebee Conservation Trust'.



The museum is overflowing with objects relating to every aspect of life in Mid Devon from prehistory to the present day.

Opening times:

February to Christmas

Monday to Friday: 10:30-4:30

Saturdays: 10:00-1:00

Open Bank Holidays

Beck's Square, Tiverton
EX16 6PJ 01884 256295
www.tivertonmuseum.org.uk

Registered charity No 238531

Children now FREE!
when accompanied by an adult



Kingsmead Centre

Camping and Self Catering Holidays on the Devon / Somerset Border

A peaceful, family run camp site with on-site fishing set in the beautiful Blackdown Hills



Need extra space for visitors?

Or just fancy a few home comforts on your holiday. Our self-catering static vans offer a great alternative. Each with full kitchen, twin and double bedrooms, shower room and lounge they offer great comfort at affordable prices starting from £40 per van per night

SPECIAL OFFER FOR VIEW READERS
Quote BV1 for a 10% discount when booking.

Camping and Caravans

Only ten minutes from Junction 26 of the M5 this hidden gem of a site offers an authentic countryside camping experience. Surrounded by woodland, wildlife and little else you can lose yourself in the moment. For a true camping experience open fires and BBQ's are allowed. Camp in the open field or amongst the trees and enjoy a fantastic getaway from the bustle of modern life. Camping prices from £10 per pitch per night



TELEPHONE: (01823) 421630
www.kingsmeadcentre.com

Places of interest

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AXE VALE FESTIVAL

THE SHOWGROUND, THE TRAFALGAR WAY, AXMINSTER
from 10 am to 6 pm on Saturday 23rd June 2012 and from 9.30 am to 5.30pm on Sunday 24th June 2012

A Great Day For All The Family

Crafts - Trade Stands - Floral Marquee - Food Hall - Antiques & Collectables - Spirit of the community - Toys & Hobbies - Horticultural Show - Childrens Entertainment - Demonstrators - Arena Events - Live Bands - Art - Charities - Licensed Bar - Refreshments



A great day out usually involves an ice cream!



Take a walk on the Wildside!

Communicating a love and awareness of nature through activities and experience.

Established in 2007, we offer nature awareness and bushcraft training in East Devon and the Blackdown Hills. Our bespoke outdoor events include woodland birthday parties, school residentials and theme days, corporate training, wildlife tracking and wild food forays. Richard and Alison Whiteside will be your contacts, they will work with you to ensure your Wildside experience is truly memorable.

Richard is a qualified and experienced teacher and Advanced Bushcraft Practitioner, Alison is a Forest School Leader. Both are expert naturalists, enthusiasts and good communicators, personable and used to working with all ages.

Food provided is excellent quality - fair trade, organic and locally sourced whenever reasonably possible. Full risk assessments, CRB checks and public liability insurance are in place and are available for inspection. Richard and Alison are qualified in Outdoor First Aid and Food Hygiene.

Our public events this season include a dawn chorus walk and breakfast on 5th May, nightjar/bat walks on 7th June

and 14th July and a dads and lads overnight on 10th August. Booking is essential for all of these, please contact us for more information.



Bespoke nature experiences, bushcraft, activities and overnights for individuals, families and groups.

A beautiful location in the heart of the Blackdown Hills. Equipment and quality food provided.

www.wildsideexperience.co.uk • 01823 680931

A Great Day Out for ALL the Family!

AXE VALE FESTIVAL

Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th
JUNE 2012



www.axevalefestival.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1130829

The Tuckers Arms

A 12th Century old thatched pub with a low beamed ceiling and inglenook fireplace nestling beside the babbling Corry Brook in rural Dalwood just off the A35 to Axminster & Honiton



Specialising in fresh fish and local produce, real ales and fine wines.

Food served 12 pm to 2 pm and 6.30 pm to 9 pm

A beer garden is at the rear, Dogs are welcome
Please contact us for further information or to book

Telephone: 01404 881342



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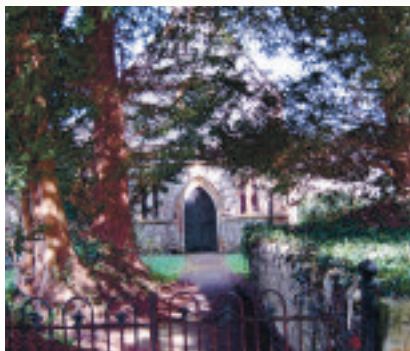
Places of interest

Dunkeswell Abbey

The abbey is two miles north of the village. The abbey was founded in 1201 by William Briwere as a Cistercian monastery and offshoot of Forde Abbey.

The founder granted much property within Devon to the abbey. Around two years before his death in 1226, he entered the community and was eventually buried in front of the high altar of the abbey church.

The abbey was closed in 1539 and granted to Lord Russell, and was mostly demolished quickly, though a section remained in domestic use until the 19th century. In 1842, a parish church was built over part of the site. Some surviving fragments of monastery include the partial end wall of the cellarer's range and parts of a gatehouse. Some carved fragments survive within Holy Trinity Church which was built here in 1842 in Early English style.



Keep fit and enjoy yourself this summer!



Longmead Field

Hemyock Tennis Club is a friendly, informal club enjoying the best tennis facilities in the Blackdowns.

For more info, contact Julie Steed (01823 680787) or Sue Lambert (01823 680664), or come to our open evening on Friday 18th May from 6.30pm

NB. The courts are also available for hire by non-members



Dunkeswell Aerodrome is a busy civilian airfield with a mix of light aircraft, microlights and parachuting.

Nearby is North Hill, an airstrip run by the local gliding club.

Dunkeswell Aerodrome has a CAA Ordinary Licence (Number P674) that allows flights for the public transport of passengers or for flying instruction as authorised by the licensee (Air Westward Limited). The aerodrome is not licensed for night use.

The airfield was opened in 1943, during the Second World War, as RAF Dunkeswell. The station was originally planned as a RAF Fighter Command, then a RAF Coastal Command airfield, but was transferred for use by American units.

It was first used by the American United States Army Air Force's Antisubmarine Command, 479th Antisubmarine Group, as a base of operations to fly antisubmarine missions over the Bay of Biscay using specialized B-24 Liberator bombers from

August until November.

In November the United States Army Air Forces turned over the antisubmarine mission to the United States Navy and its Liberators were reassigned to Navy Patrol Bomber Squadron VPB-103, Fleet Air Wing 7, which continued aerial antisubmarine operations from the station, the AAF aircraft being redesignated under the USN/USMC system of the time as PB4Y-1 Liberators.

This was the first United States Navy unit to train with the RAF, later followed by VB-105 and VB-110. The Naval antisubmarine squadrons moved to RAF Upottery in November 1944.

With the departure of the Americans, the RAF used the airfield from August 1945 to April 1946 for ferrying aircraft to the Middle East by 16 Ferry Unit, RAF Transport Command.

After September 1946 the station was put on care and maintenance status until the end of 1948, when it was sold by the Ministry of Defence.

Dunkeswell Aerodrome



A base used during D-Day by the 101st Airborne, Upottery airfield lies on the outskirts of the village of Smeatharpe, 6 miles north of Honiton and 6 miles east of the USN station at Dunkeswell.

Upottery was one of two Devonshire bases from which the 101st Airborne Division embarked (to Normandy) on the night of June 5th 1944 as part of the D-Day invasion.

On the night of 5th June 1944 Dakotas lifted off from Upottery Airfield in Devon as part of the D-Day invasion of Normandy.

Anyone familiar with the opening scenes of the TV adaptation of the 'Band of Brothers' will be familiar with this scene.

On the night of 5th June 1944 Airborne forces from the 101st Airborne Division took off from airfields around Devon as part of Operation Neptune, the airborne part of the D-Day landings.

Today a former sentry-box at the village of Churchinford has been made into a memorial.

The memorial reads: "Just after midnight on the night of June 5th 1944: 81 C-47 unarmed transport aircraft departed from this airfield carrying 1357 Paratroops who were to be dropped behind enemy lines near the coast of France on D-Day.

At dawn on the morning of the 7th June 1944: 50 C-47 aircraft towing 30 Horsa gliders and 20 Waco gliders departed for France carrying 968 Glider Infantry troops in the second airborne wave of the invasion. Here in honoured memory are those killed in transit on those two missions".



Thelma
Hulbert
Gallery

Thelma Hulbert Gallery

Spring/Summer Exhibitions 2012

17 Mar - 5 May 2012

EDWINA BRIDGEMAN:

The Edge of Enchantment

Collage sculptures from recycled materials

19 May - 30 June 2012

MAT CHIVERS: Sculptures

Work by recent Venice Biennale Sculptor

14 July - 8 Sept 2012

THG OPEN 2012: Equality & Endeavour

Selected works by South West Artists.

See website for application form.

Thelma Hulbert Gallery, Elmfield House, Dowell Street
T: 01404 45006 E: info@thelmahulbert.com
www.thelmahulbert.com

Opening times: Tues - Sat 10am - 5pm

FREE ADMISSION

Burrow Farm Gardens

Burrow, Axminster, EX13 7ET 01404 811 285



Beautiful Ten Acre Landscape Garden

Open Daily Between 1st April - 31st October 10am - 7pm

Nursery, Gift Shop, Lunches and Teas

Conducted Tours and Discounts available for Groups

www.burrowfarmgardens.co.uk

Dunkeswell Memorial Museum



MANY RETURNED HOME, SOME STAYED FOREVER, NONE WILL BE FORGOTTEN"

Dunkeswell Memorial Museum is dedicated to all the Veterans of United States Fleet Air Wing 7 and RAF personnel who served on the only American Navy air base commissioned on UK soil during World War II.

The USN FAW7 was operational from mid 1943 to the end of European hostilities in 1945. Through the perseverance of a small group of people who became fascinated by what history happened here sixty years ago, the museum now gives the opportunity for visitors of all ages to discover the importance and very special roles that the American servicemen of US Navy Base.



Places of interest

7

Character and charm abounds at Uppottery

The Sidmouth Arms formed part of the Sidmouth Estate, and in the sale particulars, as quoted below was listed as Lot 89.

The Sidmouth Estate was acquired by the Addington family in 1780. In 1789 Henry Addington became a Speaker of the House of Commons and in 1801 became Prime Minister. Henry Addington was created Viscount Sidmouth in 1805 as recognition of his service to his country.

The Estate was centered around the

picturesque village of Uppottery, about 4 miles north of Honiton and 12 miles south of Taunton.

The estate of 4445 acres was sold on Tuesday, 10th June 1954 with many of the tenants purchasing the freehold of their premises.

The Sidmouth Arms is situated in the centre of the village and is being sold together with a good cottage, blacksmiths shop and large garden. It is well-built of stone with slate roof and contains:-

Par Parlour and Servery. Dining room with brick fireplace. Sitting

room, Larder and good cellar.

1st Floor - 5 bedrooms, bathroom and separate W.C

Outside there is a range of outbuildings, stone and galvanised iron built, comprising skittle alley, garage etc., The tenant was a Mr Mr Phillips, who paid rent of £48. 17s 9d per annum.

Mrs Marshall rented the cottage at £12 0s 8d per annum and Mr F Smith, the blacksmith shop at an annual rental of £15 12s 0d and Mr Oaten, the shed at £5 4s 0d per annum.



The bar and restaurant area at the Sidmouth Arms

Horseshoes, peace and beauty abounds

This newly created character barn conversion sits in the peaceful unspoiled heart of the Blackdown Hills, designated as an area of outstanding natural beauty.

It is ideally located for enjoying exceptional habitats for wildlife with a wonderful maze of trails to follow, walking or watching the local flora & fauna, photography, cycling, horse riding or just to experience the good country life.

There are 2 local pubs nearby, half a mile to the Half Moon and The Merrier Harriers who have been selected for the prestigious award in the 'Good Food Pub Guide for 2012'.

On arrival holiday makers will be welcomed with home-made sausages and bacon from our family run village butchers shop close by in Wellington.

Contact: Anthea Coate Tel: 01823 681178 / 662157 michaelcoate@googlemail.com



Horseshoes Bed & Breakfast

A warm welcome awaits you at Horseshoes B & B Unspoilt surrounding and a host of activities and places to visit locally Close to amenities



Call Anthea on
01823 681178



Linda, Nigel and Paul extend a warm welcome to one and all at The Sidmouth Arms in the picturesque village of Uppottery, just 5 miles from Honiton in the glorious East Devon countryside. Choose from our tempting selection of home cooked culinary delights or simply sit back and enjoy a pint (or two) of one of our very popular, locally brewed, Otter beers!



The Sidmouth Arms

Uppottery, Honiton EX14 9PN

Call 01404 861252

A delightful country pub offering home made pub grub all freshly prepared and locally grown in the Blackdown Hills - including Sunday Lunches

- Local Otter Beer - brewed approx 1 mile away! (This brewery is open to visitors)
- A country garden with picnic benches
- Dogs & children very welcome
- Function Room - Skittle Alley,
- Outside catering service available to suit individual requirements
- Holiday Cottage available

www.sidmoutharms.com



The Queens Arms

Pitminster, Taunton,
Somerset TA3 7AZ
01823 421529

Now a family run pub recently taken over by the owners of the Sidmouth Arms

Where their son-in-law Andrew, a very experienced and equally well travelled chef who will be preparing a cosmopolitan selection of dishes to choose from.

Locally grown produce - Local beers and wines
A truly delightful gastro experience awaits!



8

Places to visit - Honiton Agricultural Show



The 122nd Honiton Agricultural Show takes place on Thursday 2nd August 2012.

The Grand Parade is one of the many highlights of the main ring activities where the day's livestock winners proudly parade. The 2012 main ring will be a hive of activity with fantastic acts such as the Squibb Freestyle Stunt Show a spectacular motocross show performed by triple winning British FMX rider Jamie Squibb.

David Seamark will demonstrate the amazing skill of five working sheepdogs together with geese. By popular demand Cyril the Squirrel returns with his racing terriers who are sure to entertain with their crazy antics and children participation is welcomed.

The lower field incorporates all that is countryside with hurdle making, ferret racing, a blacksmiths guild and a vintage tractor section with over 100 vehicles on display. Honiton plays host to the West of England Hound Show, a show within a show, which attracts a huge following countryside.

There are wonderful poultry and dog shows comprising both pedigree and fun classes for the pet pooch. Come and meet the Otters, Belinda and Rudi with their owner Daphne Neville who will be giving educational talks throughout the day.

With over 400 trade stands, including crafts, shopping and a fabulous food hall there really is something for everyone. Honiton prides itself on being a truly traditional agricultural show with a unique atmosphere it brings new and traditional agriculture together so make a note in the diary, 2nd August, we all look forward to welcoming you.

Don't forget accompanied under 16's are free. Make savings and purchase your advance tickets now for just £12.00 per adult for a whole day of entertainment. For further details on the show contact the secretary on 01404 41794 or visit the website www.honitonshow.co.uk.



"Situating on an active airfield you'll always find something going on out of the window"

Full breakfast, tasty sandwiches, lunch & evening menus

Fully licensed bar
'skybucks' coffee, Teas & cakes

Carvery served on a Thursday evening & Sunday lunch time

Regular events & Promotions

Available to hire for events & functions

Contact us to book or to enquire:

01404 890009

info@tacbar.com

www.tacbar.com

Dunkeswell Airfield, Honiton, EX14 4LG

122nd HONITON AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Thursday 2nd August 2012

Main Ring Acts so far.....

Squibb Freestyle Stunt Show

David Seamark Sheep Dog Demonstration

Cyril The Squirrel and his Racing Terriers

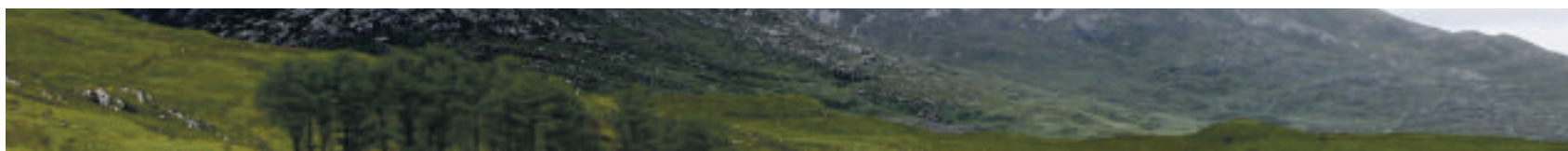


**A Fantastic Day Out for All The Family –
Children (Under 16) FREE ENTRY
when accompanied by an adult.**

**Please apply for Horse
& Livestock Schedules to;**

Marcelle Connor Tel/Fax 01404 41794
Bank House, 66a High Street, Honiton, Devon EX14 1PS
email: info@honitonshow.co.uk

www.honitonshow.co.uk



Honiton May Festival

9

2011 Review: What to expect in 2012!

INTERESTING MIXTURE – HONITON FESTIVAL 2011

Last year the Honiton Festival held four concerts, held over two weekends. Again Honiton's St. Paul's Church provided an acoustically near perfect venue for the two lunchtime concerts, while there were ventures out to the village church at Cotleigh, and the beautiful Parish Church at Ottery St. Mary for the evening concerts.

The programme provided an interesting mixture of musical fare provided by two stalwarts of the concert scene and two brilliant up-and-coming young players who have already made their mark.

Festival President, counter-tenor James Bowman, making a second appearance at the event and now winding down his long career in early music, gave the first recital.

Following a reception

at Cotleigh House the audience was entranced by a 'joyous evening of songs and readings from Elizabethan England' during which lutenist Lynda Sayce provided accompaniments and instrumental solos, and choice readings came from Alfred Bradley. Of course, John Dowland, England's greatest lutenist composer, loomed large in the programme, but there were other names, familiar and less familiar, from that great age of England's music when everyone of note, it seems, was able to play an instrument, or sing.

Thomas Campion and Thomas Ford, Orlando Gibbons, Jeremiah Clarke and Richard Farrant were there, as well as lesser names such as Edward Johnson and Michael Cavendish, and their songs were rendered with such an authoritative feel for the period.

The first of the lunchtime concerts, following the excellent lunch always available, was given by the brilliant young clarinettist Julian Bliss who joined the Cavalieri Quartet in those two mainstays of such ensembles – the Clarinet Quintets by Mozart and Brahms.

These works rarely fail to enthuse an audience and this occasion was no exception as they were played with panache and deep feeling. The quartet completed the programme with a satisfying performance of Haydn's Sunrise Quartet (Op.76, No.4)

New Zealand violinist Ben For the final concert it was another veteran and showman of the concert platform, the renowned, inimitable trumpet player Crispian Steele-Perkins, who thrilled a large audience.

He brought along his small group of Baroque musicians, who style themselves

the Handel Players, to join him in a fascinating group of seventeenth and eighteenth century works most of which featured the trumpet.

Handel and Purcell were represented, not always with their most familiar works, and there were others such as Stradella, Albinoni and Vivaldi. Crispian has a marvelous, friendly stage presence and he loves to talk to his audience and speak about his various historical trumpets, and so everyone went away so much the wiser having heard the various trumpets from the hosepipe to today's modern valved instrument.

Short this year's Festival may have been, but it was well up to standard, bringing great artists and great music to East Devon.

Excerpts from original, written by John Dalton – May 2011

A brief history...

Founded in 1988 the Honiton Festival has become an increasingly important annual musical event in the South West.

The Festival aims to bring Britain's established and new talents in classical music to the South West and encourage other fringe musical events.

The Friends of Honiton Festival

The Friends of The Honiton Festival are a group of like minded people who form the backbone of this unique event. They are greatly valued and play an extremely important role in the running of the Festival.

As a member of the friends you would enjoy such benefits as:

- An invitation to social occasions associated with the Festival.
- Enjoy the feeling of supporting a unique local event.
- Discount on all ticket prices.

If you would like to become more closely involved please contact Ruth Tawse (Secretary) - 01404 41736



Time Lowe will be performing with James Baillieu on May 25



Scan this QR code with your smart phone app to visit the Festival's website



Honiton Hill Rally

August Bank Holiday Sunday & Monday

9:00am – 6:00pm

Rising Sun, Stockland, Nr Honiton, Devon EX14 9NH



- Steam Engines - Tractors
- Stationary Engines
- Cars - Model Tent
- Motorcycles - Fire engines
- Military vehicles
- Commercials - Horses
- Threshing - Wood sawing
- Arts & Crafts
- Rural Crafts - Trade Stands
- Fair Organs - Auction
- Ring Events & Demonstrations
- Refreshments
- Children's Entertainment
- Harvesting Display



Auction Of Collectables. Bank Holiday Monday @ 10am
Contact Stags Auctioneers,
66 High Street, Honiton
01404 45885

Admission Adults - £7.00 OAP's - £6.00

Under 16's – Free (When accompanied by an adult)

www.honitonhillrally.co.uk

"Bringing the greatest new and established talents in classical music to the South West"

Honiton May Festival 2012



The Callino Quartet

Thursday 10th May 7.30pm, Cotleigh Parish Church

Haydn – Quartet Op.20 No.5 Ravel – String Quartet

Schubert – Quartet in D minor "Death & the Maiden"

Tickets: £17.50 for reception & concert; £12 for concert only



Jacqui Dankworth

Saturday 12th May 7.30pm, St. Paul's, Honiton

Jazz, blues, folk Tickets: £15/£13.50/£12,

£9 unreserved/possible restricted view



Lars Tharp

Friday 18th May, Bearnas, Hampton, Littlewood,

Dowell St, Honiton 6-7.00pm Reception & Antiques Sale Preview

7.00pm **Presentation: The Dragon in the Punch Bowl**

Tickets £10



Melvyn Tan, Piano

Saturday 19th May 7.30pm, St. Paul's Church

Mozart – Piano Sonata in B flat K.333

Schumann – Fantasiestucke Op.12

Chopin – Sonata No.3 in B minor, Op.58

Tickets: £15/£13.50/£12,

£9 unreserved/possible restricted view



Tim Lowe, Cello and James Baillieu, Piano Friday 25th May

1.00pm, St. Paul's Saint-Saens – Cello Sonata No.1 in C Minor

Mendelssohn-Variations Concertante Op.17 Dvorak-Romance

Beethoven – Sonata for Cello & Piano in C Op.102 No.1

Tickets: £9 unreserved/possible restricted view

sponsored by



European Union Chamber Orchestra

Thursday 31st May 7.30pm, St. Paul's Church

Director **Hans-Peter Hofmann, Violin**

with soloists: **Marie Langrishe, Violin**

and **Andrew Harvey, Violin**

Bach – Concerto for Two Violins in D minor Tchaikovsky – Serenade for Strings

Mendelssohn – Concerto in D minor for Violin Mozart – Divertimento K.138

Tickets: £15/£13.50/£12, £9 unreserved/possible restricted view



Tickets from Honiton Tourist Information Office

01404 43716

www.thehonitonfestival.co.uk



Welcome to the Blackdown Hills

a peaceful, unspoilt landscape on the Devon and Somerset border. Discover a place of steep, wooded ridges, high plateaux, rolling farmland and lush valleys.



Protected

Since 1991 this place has been protected for the nation. It is one of the UK's 47 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), making it one of the finest landscapes in the country.



Special

The area's unique geology creates exceptional habitats for wildlife. Look closely and see rare species of plants, birds and butterflies flourishing here.



Active

Enjoy the countryside all year round with a packed programme of outdoor events, or explore at your own pace on foot, bike or horseback.



Historic

The hills are dotted with historic treasures. Trace the story of the Blackdowns from the Iron Age to the Second World War at sites across the area.



Welcoming

The villages of the Blackdown Hills are thriving and friendly. Whether you live here, come on holiday or visit for the day, there is always a warm welcome.



Working

This is living, working countryside. Sample the highest quality produce, crafts, food and drink from local farms, shops, pubs and markets.



**Blackdown
Hills AONB**

Local people and visitors can join in with a wealth of activities to learn about and care for the Blackdown Hills:

- Walks and rides - find over 30 walks, plus horse rides and cycle routes across the AONB on our website
- Events - our events calendar features around 100 events a year, in all seasons. Take part in everything from farm visits to astronomy, from bat walks to living history. See our website or pick up a leaflet from the Tourist Information Centres in Taunton, Wellington, Chard, Axminster, Honiton or Tiverton.
- Volunteering - find out more about volunteering in the fresh air on our website or by giving us a call.

www.blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk
01823 680681



The National Association for AONBs
Cymdeithas Genedlaethol AONB

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in England, Wales and Northern Ireland

In England, Wales and Northern Ireland our finest landscapes have been conserved through designation as National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs).

AONBs were brought into being by the same legislation as National Parks – the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. They have been described as fine landscapes of great variety in character and extent¹. The Blackdown Hills AONB is one of 47 AONBs in the UK that have been designated under the 1949 Act.



4 Wellington Monument

The most recognisable landmark in the Blackdowns, overlooking the Vale of Taunton. Erected in the 19th century to honour Sir Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington. National Trust car park signed from A38 west of Wellington. **ST 143 167**



3 Otterhead Lakes

A mile-long chain of tranquil lakes, once part of a grand estate, now a nature reserve with walks. Car park south of Otterford. **ST 225 140**



2 Hembury Hillfort

The finest prehistoric hillfort in Devon with massive defensive ramparts. Excavations have revealed Iron Age and Roman occupation. Access via public footpath off A373. **ST 111 028** Nearby Dumpdon Hill (16) is another Iron Age hillfort.



Villages

A host of lively communities with amenities for visitors. Traditional architecture includes picturesque thatched cottages and handsome chert houses. Larger villages include Hemyock, Dunkeswell, Churchinford, Broadchembury, Stockland and Buckland St Mary.

6 Second World War sites

The impact of Second World War airbases at Dunkeswell, Upottery and Culmhead can still be seen. Site of the only US navy airbase on UK soil, later made famous in the TV series *Band of Brothers*. Dunkeswell Memorial Museum is at Flightway Business Park, Dunkeswell, EX14 4PG. **ST 138 079**



6 Culmstock Beacon

One of a chain of Elizabethan beacons built to warn of Spanish invasion on the Devon coast. High on Blackdown Common, a wildlife haven with stunning views. Access via public bridleway. **ST 110 150**



7 Staple Hill easy-access viewpoint trail

A 1 km circular trail, built to enable people of all abilities to experience the landscape of the Neroche area. A firm, level trail, suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs. Viewpoints and picnic benches add to the enjoyment. Access via Forestry Commission car park south of Corfe. **ST 246 159**

8 Castle Neroche

Now a series of earth ramparts, Castle Neroche was once an Iron Age hillfort and later a simple Norman motte and bailey castle. A great site for walks. Access via Forestry Commission car park south of Staple Fitzpaine. **ST 273 156**

Staple Fitzpaine Herepath

This 13.7 mile (22 kilometre) circular trail takes you through the beautiful woodlands of the Neroche area. Open to walkers and riders, clearly waymarked and easy to follow. Start at either Staple Hill (7) or Castle Neroche (8).

Wildlife spotting

Some more great sites to see rare plants, butterflies, birds and other wildlife.

- 9 Ashcull Turbary **ST 147 157**
- 10 Lickham Bottom **ST 127 123**
- 11 Clayhidon Turbary **ST 153 152**
- 12 Hense Moor **ST 175 080**
- 13 Quants **ST 165 175**
- 14 Yarty Moor **ST 234 156**
- 15 Ringdown **ST 178 155**
- 16 The Rough/Dumpdon Hill **ST 177 041**
- 17 Mount Fancy Farm **ST 250 145**

See our website for detailed information about these and other wildlife sites.

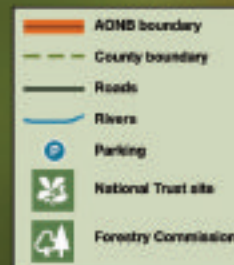


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1 Wolford Chapel

The burial place of John Graves Simcoe, first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada from 1792. The chapel and gardens are now owned by the Province of Ontario. Follow Canadian flag signs on Honiton to Dunkeswell road. **ST 137 062**



Yellow text indicates Ordnance Survey grid reference.

Locations shown are approximate guides only. Refer to Ordnance Survey maps Explorer 115, 116 and 128 or Landranger 193 and 192 when planning your visit.



Neroche

The Forest on your doorstep

Walks and activities,
courses and events this
Spring and Summer



The public forest at Neroche is a hugely varied place for exploring, getting fit, learning about the natural world, or just spending some quality time. And the Spring is perhaps the most uplifting time of year to visit. The celandines and primroses are flowering, the wood anemones and wild garlic are through, and the buds are breaking on the hawthorn and hazel.

For an easy stroll, come to **Staple Hill**, a mile west of Castle Neroche, and follow the all-ability loop trail with its fantastic views over Taunton. For a more serious jaunt, follow all or part of the circular **Herepath Trail**, best joined at Staple Hill or Castle Neroche.

If you fancy getting more hands-on, we run **Volunteer Days** every second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. And we have a programme of **courses and open days** through the season – see below – mostly at Young Wood near Staple Fitzpaine, which is fast becoming the new centre for wood-based crafts in the Blackdowns. **If you're starting to plan your veg garden – why not come to Young Wood for our Open Day on 29th April to buy beanpoles – made of best quality Blackdowns hazel!**

Meanwhile, if you work with a group, school or pre-school and you are looking for a great place for a **group visit, woodland activities or Forest School sessions**, contact us about coming to Young Wood.



Plant Supports and Mini Willow Hurdles

Saturday 28th April 2012, 10am – 4.30pm
Cost: £65 incl. materials. Booking required

Beanpole Day at Young Wood

Sunday 29th April 2012, 10am – 3pm
Free entry, booking not required

Introduction to Green Woodworking

Saturday 26th May 2012, 10am – 4.30pm
Cost: £60 incl. materials (or £110 for 26th and 27th May courses together). Booking required

Next Steps in Green Woodworking

Sunday 27th May 2012, 10am – 4.30pm
Cost: £60 incl. materials (or £120 for 26th and 27th May courses together). Booking required

Using hazel from Young Wood and willow from the Somerset Levels, weave your own conical plant support or border hurdle, for the new growing season. Led by Tim Beazley

Part of National Beanpole Week! Come and enjoy the springtime woodlands, and buy your bean poles and pea sticks for the garden. Guided walks, refreshments

Learn how to work with green wood the traditional way, with Tim Beazley. Learn to saw, cleave, shave and turn, and practise using a shave horse and pole lathe. No experience necessary

If you've already done an introductory course, hone and extend your green woodworking skills, creating an item of your choice, something turned or shaved, under the expert guidance of Tim Beazley

Midsummer Botanicals

Saturday 30th June 2012, 10am – 4pm
Cost: £30. Booking required.

Bring out your inner botanist! A beginner's introduction to some wildflowers of woodland and meadow. Learn how to identify some common flowering plants, and find out which have medicinal or culinary uses. Led by Gavin Saunders and Jenny Archard

Natural Sculpture with Michael Fairfax

Sat 14th July 2012, 10am – 4.30pm. Cost: £50. Booking required.

Let your imagination run riot by spending an enlightening day with artist Michael Fairfax, choosing your own green wood straight from the forest, and creating something unique. No experience necessary

Adult and Child 'Make a Country Stool'

Sunday 22nd July 2012, 10am – 4.30pm. Cost: £85 for 1 adult+1 child. Booking required.

An opportunity for some inter-generational working, spending some quality time in the woods together, learning essential woodworking techniques and creating a simple stool to take home. Suitable for adults and children from Year 5 upwards. Led by Tim Beazley

For more details of all events, trails and places to visit,
go to www.nerochescheme.org
email info@nerochescheme.org
or phone 01823 680846



Blackdown Beer and Music Festival

13

The Blackdown Beer and Music Festival Summer 2012

Get ready to party!



The Blackdown Beer and Music Festival Summer 2012



This fantastic charity event raises money to support music education in schools, preschools and clubs on the Blackdown Hills.

When? - Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th August 2012.

Where? - Cherry Hayes Farm, Smeatharpe Devon. EX14 9RD.
(between Taunton and Honiton on the Devon/Somerset border)

Loads of bands including:

The Simmertones
on Friday night



The Man From Funkle
on Saturday



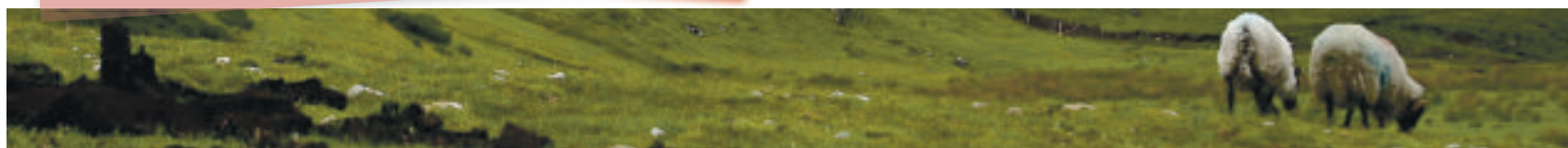
Huge selection of beers and ciders etc, great food and family entertainment on Saturday afternoon.

Come and soak up the atmosphere and have fun on the hills!

Camping available

See the website for full list of bands and guests:

www.blackdownbeerfestival.com



14

Places of interest

Pyle House Bed and Breakfast



High quality, comfortable and spacious accommodation offering 2 double and 1 twin bedrooms all ensuite.

Landscaped gardens, peaceful surroundings and stunning views over the Yarty valley.

Delicious breakfasts using local produce. Choice of local pubs serving excellent food.

Contact Mike or Madeleine

Pyle House Bed and Breakfast,
Whitestaunton, Chard, Somerset, TA20 3DZ
Telephone: 01460 239268
www.pylehouse.co.uk

'Just a great place to stay!'

Set in a forest clearing on the Blackdown Hills Forest Glade Holiday Park offers self-catering holiday caravans and touring pitches for motor homes, tents and touring caravans.

Facilities include a free indoor heated swimming pool, central amenities building, WiFi, childrens' play areas, games room, shop with off-licence and take away and forest walks.

Pets are welcome on the touring park and in some of our holiday caravans.



Impressive variety

You can't fail to be impressed by the variety of fishing, activities and quality accommodation available at South Farm, on the edge of the Blackdown Hills in East Devon.

There's free fishing for staying holidaymaker's on four lakes, with beaches, moors and towns like Torquay, Dartmouth, Lyme Regis, Beer and Sidmouth within easy reach.

You have the choice to stay in eight cottages, from a farmhouse to a lodge, for parties between two and 16 guests. Prices range from £285 per week in winter to £2,800 in high season.

All the lakes are spring-fed from the surrounding hills, each offering a different range of species and weights to suit anglers of all abilities.

Home Lake is the specimen water, with mirror, common, leather and koi carp up to 20lb and specimen chub to 6lb, plus tench, perch and roach.

Keepnets are banned but it's possible to catch up to 20 big fish in a session.

Lower Ram is the largest lake mostly filled with common and mirror carp in the 8oz-4lb range but with some fish up to

15lb. Chub go to 5lb.

This is the water to head for if you're aiming for a match-style session and maybe 100lb.

Rainbow trout have recently been introduced into both Home and Lower Ram lakes and these are for catch and release only.

With loads of small carp, tench and perch to catch Upper Ram is an ideal small lake where children can develop their skills before moving on to more challenging waters.

Marlpit Lake is hidden away in a copse and is home to crucians and smaller fish which grow on after being transferred from South Farm's other waters.

Day visitors can fish Upper Ram and Lower Ram Lakes

for £7.

If you fancy a break from fishing there's plenty to do both on-site and further afield and the informative website will give you more details and keep you up to date with special offers.

Within the complex are an outdoor heated swimming pool, childrens' play area, tennis court, a small gym, sauna and hot tub.

Beyond South Farm you can visit the famous Jurassic Coast, walk, cycle and ride horses.

You could hurl yourself out of a serviceable aircraft by parachuting at Dunkeswell or take a balloon ride, go on a 4x4 driving experience, race round in a kart or hike into the hills.



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DEVON
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ON REQUEST**

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Central for touring SW. Easy access to coast and moors.



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www.forest-glade.co.uk • email: enquiries@forest-glade.co.uk



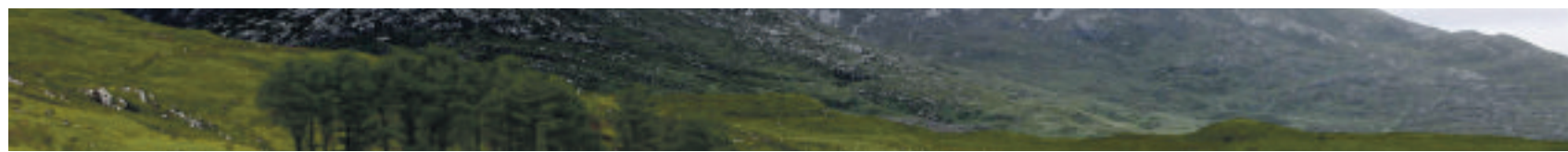
South Farm holiday cottages with Fishing

Day visitors can fish upper and Lower Ram Lakes for £7.00

Telephone 01823 681078

info@southfarm.co.uk • www.southfarm.co.uk

South Farm, Blackborough, Cullompton, Devon EX15 2JE



Places of interest

15

There's nothing quite like the flutter-by of a native butterfly



The Little Breach reserve, which forms part of the SSSI is an area of heathy grassland on Greensand, with some blackthorn and birch, noted for its butterflies and moths.

Blackdown and Sampford Commons have the finest and most extensive surviving examples of the heathland, carr woodland and marshy grassland habitats that have developed on the acidic soils overlying the Greensand and Keuper Marls of the Blackdown Hills.

The heathland supports a typical invertebrate fauna, including a wide variety of butterfly species, and with spiders notably abundant.

The site is regionally important for birds which favour heathland habitats.

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**For more information, please
visit www.blackdown-hills.co.uk**

bh
ba Blackdown Hills
Business Association



At the heart of the Culm Valley



Tucked away down a long drive, Luggs Barn offers spacious and characterful accommodation in a gloriously private setting.

With a network of scenic footpaths on the doorstep, its location in the Blackdown Hills AONB provides the perfect base for visiting both north and south coastlines and exploring the surrounding countryside.

The secluded position and vast enclosed garden make Luggs Barn ideal for large families as well as groups of walkers, artists or photographers seeking a retreat.

Features include superbly appointed kitchen, balcony, beams and wood burning stove as well as far reaching views across the Culm Valley.

This luxury self-catering property sleeps 8-9 (plus cots) in 4 bedrooms.

Two ground floor suites and two first floor twin/double bedrooms with family bathroom sleep 8 in comfort. The well equipped beamed kitchen boasts a window seat and large wooden table ideal for leisurely family suppers.

Carefully renovated to balance period features with 21st century convenience, Luggs Barn features all the comforts of home.

TV, DVD, sound system, Freeview, and plenty of games, books and CDs, as well as a selection of baby and toddler toys, ensure the whole family is entertained. Children of all ages are very welcome.

We can provide (by prior arrangement) a travel cot, high-chair, stairgates and changing mat. Unfortunately unsuitable for wheelchair users.

Luggs barn is situated at Culm Davy, Hemyock, Cullompton, Devon EX15 3UP, please see the advert for contact details.



- Self-catering luxury holiday cottage
- Secluded position in Blackdown Hills AONB
- Spectacular views across the Culm Valley
- Balcony, old beams, large garden, period features
- 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms
- Children and pets welcome

www.luggsbarn.co.uk

01823 681605 or 07521 363081
sarah@luggsbarn.co.uk



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www.lodgehouseandbsomerset.co.uk
Email: enquiries@lodgehouseandbsomerset.co.uk



16

Places of interest

You've discovered the Blackdown Hills!
Now you need to discover
Andrewshayes
holiday park



This family run 4 star holiday park has wonderful views over the Blackdown Hills at Dalwood.

With excellent facilities for camping, touring and quality holiday caravans to hire.



Seasonal tourer pitches and storage. An ideal location for exploring Devon and the Jurassic Coast.

info@andrewshayes.co.uk

www.andrewshayes.co.uk

Tel: 01404 831225



Hemyock part of the AONB

Hemyock is the largest village on the Blackdown Hills, Devon, which is now designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

The parish has an area of about 2350 hectares, and lies on the NW of the Blackdown Hills. The village has a very long history, some prehistoric remains may be found, from about 100 BC to well beyond. In the middle ages local iron ores were smelted in small bloomeries (furnaces) to produce pure iron. In Saxon times a battle was fought at Simonsburrow between the native Britons and King

Ime's Saxon army, which put an end (temporarily) to the Kings expansion to the west.

The name Hemyock could have originated from the British stream name "Sami-aco" (meaning summer), other authorities suggest a Saxon origin from a personal name "Hemman" coupled with a Saxon word for a bend or a hook (occi).

Hemyock gave its name to the Hemyock Hundred, a unit of 7 parishes, that was an administrative unit of local government during the Saxon period.

After the Norman conquest a castle was built adjacent to the Parish Church, the

remains of some towers may still be seen.

Hemyock is a typical up-land settlement consisting of a central "town" surrounded by a number of hamlets (Culmdavey, Millhayes, Simonsburrow, Ashculme, Tedburrow, Madford, Mountshayne etc). From the 1500's to the early 1800's much of the parishes wealth came from the production of wool.

The population remained fairly constant throughout the 1800's, and until the end of the second world war. Since then a number of housing estates have been built, and our population has increased to over 2000.



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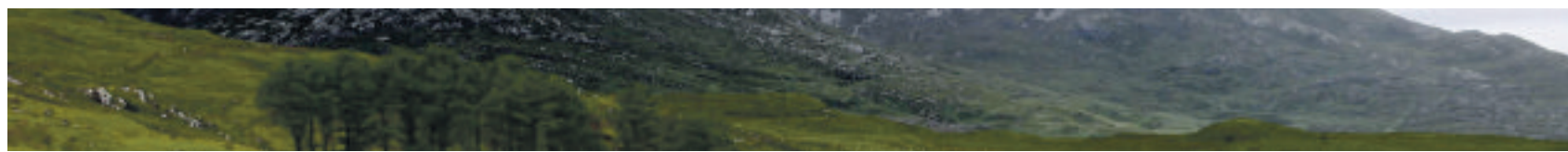
or visit our website at

www.easybikedays.com



Norman church is part of the smallest parish

The Parish of Corfe, at just over 1,000 acres, is one of the smallest in parishes in England. It is a picturesque village at the northern tip of the Blackdown Hills, bordered by stunning views approaching Blagdon Hill. There has been a place of worship in Corfe for centuries and the current building is Norman in style having been rebuilt about the middle of the 19th century. This parish church is now part of the Blackdown Benefice.



Wellington Farmers' Market

17

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Wellington Farmers' Market brings you good quality, locally sourced produce from independent retailers.

Shopping at the market means you buy from local producers, will be supporting the local economy, reducing food miles, eating fresh seasonal food and have a chance to meet the producer and talk about what they sell.

Most stallholders are primary producers, growing what they sell.

Choose amongst beef, lamb & pork; free-range eggs & chicken, bread, cakes, pies & pasties; goats milk products, local honey, chutneys & preserves, prize winning apple juice, seasonal veg, plants & cut flowers, also West Country cheeses.

Occasional visitors include soft fruit, Christmas puddings and wild venison in season. Wellington Market also has craft stalls selling prints & paintings buy a local artist, handmade jewellery, and childrens' books.

There is even a small café offering simple refreshments. Wellington Farmers' Market takes place on the first and third Saturday of the month 9am-1pm in the Scout Hall, just off Fore Street. And on the street just by the Co-op supermarket.



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18

Dunkeswell Market



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If you appreciate natural, wholesome products and would much rather buy your groceries from local producers why not support your local Farmers' Market?

The market is held on the second Saturday of each month between 10am and midday at the Throgmorton Community Hall in Dunkeswell. It is a perfect opportunity for local farmers and producers to showcase their goods for you to sample and enjoy in a comfortable and friendly atmosphere.

The stallholders offer a variety of different products varying from locally produced meats, seasonal fresh fruit and vegetables and sweet and savoury pastries, to plants and gardening sundries, wild bird care and handmade cards and gifts.

With lighter nights on the way and summer just around the corner we will no doubt be spending more time outside. So whether you are looking for some delicious meat to cook on your summer bbq or some colourful plants to brighten up your garden, the Farmers' Market offers all of this!

What's more the kitchen is open for refreshments, providing a great chance to relax and catch up with friends and neighbours over a cup of tea.

As a community, it is important that we keep our market alive, so make a note in your diary and come along and support us!

If you would like any more information, please telephone 01823 681624.



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Market

2nd Saturday at Dunkeswell Market and

3rd Thursday at Honiton Farmers Market

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We're all ears... Help Spread The Word



Help the RSPCA understand more about rabbits as pets by completing our Great Big Rabbit Survey.

We are calling on those who work with young people to help us understand more about what rabbits need to be happy and healthy.

Did you know that?

Over 33,000 rabbits have come into RSPCA animal centres since the beginning of 2007.

Every day for the last three years, an average of 25 rabbits have been collected, rescued or seized by RSPCA inspectors.

In addition, since 2007 more than 8,000 rabbits have been reported abandoned to the RSPCA.

A further 3,300 rabbits have been signed over to the RSPCA by their owners who can no longer look after them.

We are concerned that the needs of rabbits are

often poorly understood which could be having a negative impact on rabbit welfare.

If you and the young people you work with can help us understand where things are going wrong for rabbits, maybe we can stand a chance of helping our lop-eared friends enjoy better lives.

Hop to it!

Everyone who takes part in the survey will be able to download an exclusive RSPCA screensaver and be entered into a competition to win rabbit-related goodies, including toys, grooming tools and a supply of bedding and food.

We can all learn something about rabbits

Whether you're a teacher or a youth justice worker, we have resources to assist you in incorporating the issue of pet ownership into the work you do.



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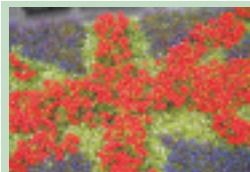
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The Silverdale Range

This is a versatile range comprising of a Sofa bed, Drop-end sofa, Fixed Sofa Recliner & Fixed chair
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Country Homes & Interiors

Jubilee year so try for some patriotic planting

THE landmark events of 2012 —namely the Queen's 60-year reign, followed by the Olympics — are set to prompt patriotic gardeners to fly the flag for Britain this year in the form of red, white and blue designs in their beds, borders and containers.

Blue and white lobelia, red salvias and geraniums and other bedding favourites could be the mainstay for many borders.

The challenge will be getting these colours in the garden in time for the jubilee celebrations in the first week of

June.

The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) has just launched an advisory page on its website — www.rhs.org.uk — providing advice and suggestions to gardeners wanting to go for red, white and blue planting schemes,

bringing together a selection of suitable plants that will go well together.

The secret will be to buy partially grown plug and mini-plants to put in containers and hanging baskets.

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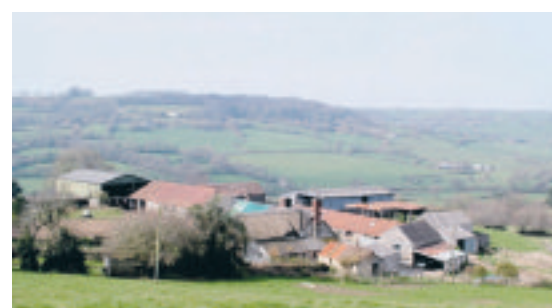
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